C!N
1079
The Perhapanauts

The Pursuit of Perhap-iness

Comics have no shortage of occult and paranormal adventurers—intrepid detectives who wage an unseen war against the outré forces that exist outside the realm of the explained and the explainable. But the Perhapanauts aren't your typical team of paranormal investigators. No, these folks know the paranormal first-hand... because they *are* the paranormal!

"The Perhapanauts are a team of every cool, creepy, unexplained creature you've ever heard of—your bigfoot, your chupacabra, your mothman, etc.—brought together to protect an unknowing humanity (ie; *you* and your *family*) from all the things that go bump in the night and are waiting in the shadows to *get you*!" writer/creator *Todd Dezago* explained. "They are Agents of the mysterious BEDLAM, and they use their strange and bizarre powers for good."

If the team sounds familiar, there's a good reason: they originally appeared in a couple of miniseries published by Dark Horse a few years back, where they generated some buzz. However, they won't be wearing the Dark Horse *cheval* when they come back into comic shops this time around; instead, they'll be outfitted with the Image "i."

Artist/creator *Craig Rousseau* offered a little insight into his initial involvement with ***The Perhapanauts.*** "Todd and I met way back at one of the first Heroes conventions I did ('98, perhaps?), back when I was drawing ***Impulse,*** and we hit it right off. Todd called me the day he got the job writing ***Impulse,*** only for me to tell him that I had just quit the book. We knew we wanted to work together, and eventually did a ***Tellos*** one shot and had a blast. From there we talked about other stuff we could (and still probably will) do, and one of those ideas was ***The Perhapanauts."***

Rousseau comes to the project with an impressive list of artistic credentials. "Besides ***The Perhapanauts,***" Rousseau said, "I've had lengthy runs on ***Impulse*** and ***Batman Beyond*** at DC as well as work on ***Batman: Gotham Adventures, Harley Quinn***... I've also done a few projects for Beckett comics (***Kiss and Tell, Ronin Hood, the Cobbler's Monster***) and a bunch of DC licensing and ***Kim Possible*** for ***Disney Adventures,*** among other things (and i'm currently working on a fill-in issue of ***X-Men: First Class*** with *Jeff Parker*)... *phew*!"

Dezago picks up from there, explaining how the series came to be—and how it ended up at Dark Horse to begin with before moving to Image. "Craig and I had been wanting to do a creator-owned project together for years. I had also had an idea for a team of monster-hunting monsters for years (always a *huge* cryptozoology buff!) and when I threw the idea at Craig, he threw back some awesome character designs and we were off!

"We published two small press comics, one a black and white sketchbook/ashcan book, the other a four-color old school newsprint comic and those were what we offered to Dark Horse to see if they'd be interested in publishing us. They were very enthusiastic at first, but when we published our second series, we felt that they had lost interest as they didn't promote the book at all."

So how did Image fit into the picture? " I had had a great relationship with the people at Image for years, mostly because of ***Tellos,***" Dezago said, "and when I mentioned to them that we were dissatisfied with what was happening (or *not* happening) over at Dark Horse, they told me that they'd be happy to show us how a book like ***The Perhapanauts*** *should* be promoted! And, man, they've really gotten the word out!"

"We're certainly hoping that we'll be able to get new readers on board with the switch," Rousseau added, "and Image feels like the right place for our book."

While Image will publish the new ***Perhapanauts*** adventures, the original miniseries won't make the jump—at least, not for a while. "Due to our original agreement with Dark Horse, all previous material is still locked up with them for another few years," Dezago said. "But in the meantime, we're gonna crank out enough ***Perhapanauts*** so that when we finally can collect it all into one of those big, beautiful, giant-sized ***Colossals*** that are so pretty, it'll be, like, *this big*!"

Rousseau is glad to be returning the the exploits of the offbeat paranormal team. ""Drawing ***The Perhapanauts*** would be any artists dream come true—the book features all the best parts of superhero stories and tales of terror with a good balance of heart and suspense. It's a cliche, but here's it's true: we're set out to make a book where *anything* is possible."

How does the collaborative process work? "Todd and I spend a lot of time on the phone (and in person) working out ideas and plot-lines (and things I do and don't want to draw), then Todd sends on over a fairly tight plot with panel breakdowns... when I send over the line art, he goes in and does the dialogue and actual lettering," Rousseau said.

Both creators are fans of that *other* popular series involving paranormal investigators who are also paranormal: *Mike Mignola's* ***BPRD,*** which spun out of the mega-hit ***Hellboy*** series. So how do the Perhapanauts differ from Mignola's offbeat team? "In ***The Perhapanauts,*** our team is a little more interactive, a bit more identifiable in their problems and foibles. They are a family, but it remains to be seen if their dysfunction is more dark drama or, well...sitcom. Though The 'Haps spend a lot of time chasing monsters and entities from other dimensions, their home life may seem a lot more familiar than you'd think."

The duo will kick off their Image run with ***Perhapanauts Annual #1,*** which should be in stores at about the same time as this issue of ***CSN.*** "The ***Perhapanauts Annual*** is an excellent jumping on point for any reader," Dezago said. "The team is scrambled when a string of brutal murders closely resembles the work of the legendary Jersey Devil! It's an adventure where the abilities of all of the Perhapanauts—and then some!--are needed, but the story focuses mostly on MG and secrets about this enigmatic team member are revealed... secrets that might put the entire team in jeopardy..."

Two months later comes ***The Perhapanauts #1,*** the kickoff issue of the new Image series—and Dezago is very happy to report that it is a *series*, not a miniseries. " While our storylines will still be presented in four or five issue arcs, ***The Perhapanauts*** *is* an on-going monthly now! *Woo hoo!* And we are doing everything we can to make sure that every single issue takes advantage of that awesome schedule! Something crazy is gonna be happening in every issue--we're pulling out all the stops!

"The regular series picks up where we left off--bringing new readers up to speed when necessary--as the Perhapanauts deal with being overrun by Gremlins, brought to the brink of war with a tribe of Mothmen from an adjacent dimension, and faced with the return of their most deadly and dangerous foe, The Chimaera," Dezago said. "And the character dynamics are going to change a lot too--something happens that *really* shakes things up!" Our plan with the move is to step things up a bit, making The Perhapanauts more unpredictable, more suspenseful, and more frightening.

Dezago is particularly enthused about the chance to do a ***Perhapanauts*** ongoing series. "Getting ***The Perhapanauts*** out on an ongoing basis has been a goal of ours since its inception," he said. "As fans of the series know, we have a love for introducing background elements that eventually become major players later on. While we highly enjoyed our previous mini-series, this new ongoing series will allow us to fully explore all the ideas we've had brewing for years!"

What can readers look forward to in upcoming issues? "More crazy, creepy, cryptozoological creatures!" Dezago said. "The 'Haps are going all around the world--and beyond!--to track down some of these bizarre beasts! The Tatzelwurm! The Flatwoods Monster! The Isnashi! More insight into the whole gang--you've got questions, we've got answers! What is hidden in MG's secret past? Where does Molly go from here? Who are the rather handsome cops that've come looking for Arisa? This is the comic that people have called a cross between ***Lost*** and a Saturday morning Cartoon...if for no other reason, you've gotta check it out just to see what *that's* all about...!"

Rousseau is not only willing to make a long-term commitment to ***The Perhapanauts,*** he's actually *eager* to do so. "Unlike work-for-hire books, this is a book we can do whatever we want with, both story-wise and art-wise... so it's always gonna be something i want to work on," the artist said.

The Perhapanauts Annual #1 is available now; ***The Perhapanauts #1,*** a $3.50 comic that kicks off the monthly run, follows on April 16th.

by Cliff Biggers (with Matt Brady)

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

IDW: Raising Hill

A week before Marvel's next ***Dark Tower*** miniseries is slated for release, IDW is publishing a miniseries called ***Locke & Key,*** written by *Joe Hill* and illustrated by *Gabriel Rodriguez.* So why do we mention the two? Well, everyone knows that ***Dark Tower*** is based on the best-selling series by *Stephen King*—but few people seem to realize that *Joe Hill* is *Stephen King's* son and a top-selling novelist in his own right (if you haven't checked out his ***Heart-Shaped Box,*** you should).

In a conversation with ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Zack Smith,* Hill described the series as "a supernatural thriller about three kids who find themselves the custodians of an unlikely New England mansion called Keyhouse. Within the house are secret doors with transformative powers, the power to fundamentally change a person's identity. There's one door, when a kid steps through it he's turned into an old person. Pass through another door, and a boy will turn into a girl, while a girl will be turned into a boy. There's another door that unlocks a closet, filled with robes: an African robe, an Asian robe. By putting the robe on, you change your race. And they find themselves pitted against a thing that calls itself Dodge, who preys on children with a weak sense of self. Dodge has a habit of turning them lethally dangerous: into Columbine style-killers, or lynch mobs. There's a terrible door within Keyhouse that Dodge would like to force open, and which my heroes have to keep shut at all costs. Ultimately it's a kind of modern Grimm's fairy tale, about the way young people discover and construct their own identity."

Hill is aware of the challenges of producing horror comics. "It's hard, within the confines of the form, to produce the right combination of suspense and moral shock that makes for great horror. It can be done, and was in ***Sandman,*** but there are more who fail than succeed. The key (I think) is to push the limits psychologically… to bring the heroes, and the reader, into an uneasy, uncomfortable place, and force them to live there a while."

So why not publish ***Locke & Key*** as a novel rather than a comic? "It started as a comic book idea, and I've never been able to imagine it any other way. Maybe that's partly because I conceive of the story as being a bit ***Sandman***-like, in the sense of it being a big, almost epic tale, which is told in a series of brief episodes… essentially, a string of short stories connected by the same characters, and by some larger, overarching concerns. It couldn't be a novel. It has the sprawl of a novel, but not the focus of one. It's important to make sure that form and content are one and the same, that they work together, and in this case the form has to be something serial in nature.

"Right now we're just focused on telling a great story in six issues. But the first storyline only scratches the surface of a much larger story, something that could run as long as 68 issues… ten six-issue stories, one eight-issue story. But even if ***Locke & Key*** is successful enough to allow for all 68 issues, I won't write it straight-out. I'll do one chunk, then leave it for a while, come back in a year. I see this as something I can play with off-and-on for a decade at least. This is assuming people actually want to read these stories, and IDW wants to publish them."

While Hill is relatively new to comics writing (although he has done one prior story for Marvel's ***Spider-Man Unlimited***), he's not new to the comics medium. "I'm an avid reader of comics, a student of *Alan Moore* and *Neil Gaiman* and also *Brian Vaughan,* who has really joined their ranks as one of the most gifted guys to ever work in the field. I have a basically comic book imagination, so for the most part I feel like I'm in my comfort zone."

Has Hill's father offered him any advice about doing comics? "Naw, not really. In the comics field, we're both novices… enthusiastic fans. But he read the first script of *Locke & Key* and was pleased."

Locke & Key #1 is tentatively slated to reach comic shops next week.

Ordway: Braver and Bolder

When a superstar artist like *George Pérez* is forced to leave a flagship book like ***The Brave and the Bold*** to take over a new top-secret project for DC, who do you tap to succeed him? After all, there aren't many artists whose work can stand up alongside Pérez's superlative pencils...

...but *Jerry Ordway* is one of the few artists who is up to the task!

Ordway, who is taking over with ***Brave & Bold #11*** next month, is a perfect choice—after all, he worked with Pérez on the classic ***Crisis on Infinite Earths,*** and has proven himself on numerous books, including ***Superman,*** over the years since.

Ordway, who is illustrating at least three issues of ***Brave & Bold,*** told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Vaneta Rogers* that he's quite pleased to be working on the team-up series. " I think *Mark Waid* has done a good job capturing the original flavor of ***Brave and Bold,*** from before it was just a Batman team-up book, and has added a more modern device, the long-form storyline, to give the various single team-ups a narrative thread. The first six issues told individual tales that combine for a big story."

Who'll Ordway be illustrating in his team-up tales? "In issue #11, I got to draw some Daily Planet hijinx involving Steve Lombard, who older fans will know, as well as the Mr Mxyzptlk from Ultraman's world, which was really fun."

How is it drawing Ultraman and Superman working together? "It's always fun to draw Superman, and Ultraman is basically a clone of Superman! I recall inking some Ultraman pages in the early 1980's as part of an ***All-Star Squadron/ Justice League*** crossover. His costume has changed, though, as the 80's were all about fashions with big shoulder padding. Ultraman now has a sleeker look."

Any other major characters showing up in the next few issues? "The Challengers of the Unknown are getting a bigger role in issues #11 and #12, as is Metamorpho. Green Lantern guests in #12, along with a bunch of other characters. Issue #13 is a stand-alone story featuring Batman, and maybe the Golden Age Flash. Should be fun!"

What makes Ordway such a good choice on a DCU-spanning series like this? "I think I fit on a book like this because I have been so involved in DC continuity over the past 26 years, and probably have drawn most of the DCU in that time," Ordway said. "I also draw in a kind of classic art style, and Waid writes that way too. Mark has a way of taking ideas that seem too darn big and making them work. I've never been comfortable writing fiction on that cosmic scale, but it's fun to draw and let someone else worry about the science."

How does Ordway describe his art, which many have compared favorably to such comics legends as *Wally Wood?* "I have never really drawn in a cutting edge or stylized way. In my work, I've always aspired to draw in the mode of artists I grew up loving, such as Wood and *John Buscema, Alex Raymond,* and... well, you get the idea. It's like superhero 101, a heroic style of cartooning, where you bend the rules of realism only to make a pose more exciting, or a hero or heroine more attractive. Hopefully the changes in my work over the years can be attributed to me getting better at drawing."

What's on Ordway's drawing board once his ***Brave & Bold*** run wraps up? "After that, I'm doing some stuff for ***Justice Society,***" Ordway said.

The Brave & the Bold #11, the first Ordway-illustrated issue, is scheduled for mid-March release.

CSNsider

•*Sean McKeever,* who signed on as writer of ***Birds of Prey*** beginning with #113, will be leaving after only five issues. On his blog, McKeever explained why his run will be such a short one. "Here's the deal: I was offered both ***Teen Titans*** and ***Birds of Prey*** at the same time. It became clear that I was going to be a bit behind on ***Teen Titans*** from the outset, and I unfortunately took longer to get up to speed than I would have liked. Because of this, I kept putting off ***Birds of Prey,*** where my debut was set for the end of the year. The thing is, I generally pride myself by being timely with my work, so the lateness on ***Teen Titans*** was stressing me out. The stress bred more lateness, which in turn bred more stress...and by late fall I was behind schedule on both series.

"Due to these circumstances, I've had to leave ***Birds of Prey.*** My last issue will be April's #117. I miss the characters already, especially considering the long-term plans I had for the title, but I'm pretty proud of the five issues I did write.

"The upside for me is that I've now been able to put my full focus on ***Teen Titans,*** ramping up production on the Terror Titans story and putting together some pretty fun plans for the remainder of 2008."

No word yet on his replacement—but as soon as it's announced, you'll hear about it in ***CSN!***

•*Frank Cho* is providing the

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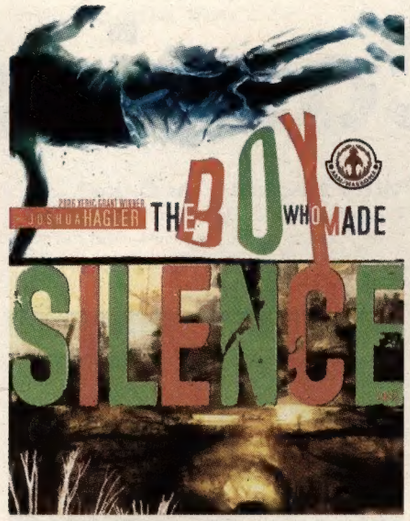
variant cover art for ***Ultimates 3 #3,*** which should be in comic shops righ about now. This 1-for-20 variant cover featuring the Scarlet Witch is sure to go quickly, so collectors are advised to grab a copy while there are copies to be had!

•And while we're talking about ***Ultimates 3,*** here's a little bad news: the fourth issue has been pushed back a month, and is now slated for April 30th release. No revised date has been announced for the fifth and final issue.

•Ready for a sneak peek at *Mark Bagley's* first released image since the mega-popular artist went exclusive with DC? Well, here ya go—a great look at DC's big three! So how does this fit in with the mystery project that Bagley is working on? (While he didn't reveal the focus of the series, he did tell ***CSN*** that "...my old buddy *Kurt Busiek* and I are together again for what looks like a really great project. I'm also really happy that *Art Thibert* will be inking me . He did a bang-up job when he and I worked together on ***Ultimate Spider-Man***. I just got back from a three-day creative meet with *Dan DiDio, Mike Carlin, Liz Gehrlien,* Kurt, and *Ian Sattler*. It went great—they're a bunch of great people with a real passion for what they do."

Be here in the next week or two as ***CSN*** spills the beans on this major series—and once you read the details, you'll understand why we can't wait for summer to get here!



•Xeric Grant winner *Joshua Hagler,* an internationally exhibited painter, has found a home for his series ***The Boy Who Made Silence,*** as Markosia has added the book to its lineup. ***The Boy Who Made Silence*** focuses on Nestor Gudfred, who—as the title says—inexplicably creates utter silence around him, which compels the people near him into each other's pasts and memories. As his religious rural community looks to him as a prophet, the story follows Nestor and a diverse cast of richly imagined characters as he comes of age, falls in love, and begins a search for his father. Look for it in March.

•***New Exiles #1,*** the series relaunch by *chris Claremont & Tom Grummett,* has sold out and is going back to press for a second printing. This edition will feature a *Tom Grummett* cover taken from interior art.

At the same the second printing reaches comic shops, Marvel will also release ***New Exiles #0,*** which collects key stories from ***Exiles #100*** and ***Exiles: Days of Then and Now,*** plus other bonus material, in an extra-length special. Both books should be in comic shops next week.

•***Walking Dead #50*** was initially announced with a 1-for-100 variant cover by *Erik Larsen & Ryan Ottley* featuring a superhero take on creator *Robert Kirkman's* zombie fan-fave, but in response to requests from fans and retailers alike, the limited ratio has been changed to 1-for-25, making the book more accessible and more affordable for the series' many fans.

Why was the variant initially slated for such a limited run? "My original intention was to make this a super-rare, limited thing, since the cover itself is so misleading as to what the book actually is. I didn't want people to be confused and think I'd changed the book drastically," Kirkman said.

Cover artist *Erik Larsen* found Kirkman's concept for the cover too quirky to pass up. "When Robert told me the original idea, I thought it was crazy—which meant I had to be on board! The combination of my pencils with Ryan's inks created an art style far different from what either of us do solo. I'm really hoping we can work together again!"

Walking Dead #50 is slated for late April release.

•Bad news for fans of *Richard Moore's* dark comedy/human interest series ***Boneyard:*** the creator is putting the series on hiatus after the release of ***Boneyard #28*** in order to work on other projects, including comic books and children's books. "I can't say how long I'll be away from ***Boneyard***; it really depends on how things go. I may do the occasional ***Boneyard*** short on my website (once it's up) to feed the jones of any hardcore fans. And,one of the other projects I'm considering is a chapter from Abbey's life going back four hundred years. If you like vampires, werewolves, pirates, or just a scantily-clad Abbey, you won't be disappointed."

Boneyard #28 is slated for late March release.

•And the horror hits just keep on coming... ***Freddy Vs. Jason Vs. Ash,*** the WildStorm crossover series, has seen two more sell-outs—but you won't have to do without the second and third issues for long, because both are going back to press and should be in comic shops this week. Each will feature a black-and-white version of *Eric Powell's* cover art. "I'm both slightly stunned and incredibly gratified at the fan response to ***Freddy Vs. Jason Vs. Ash,***" cowriter *Jeff Katz* said. "Obviously, I always believed in the commercial and creative potential of this match-up, but to see it received with such intense enthusiasm has made for one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life."

•***The Twelve #1,*** the new series by *J. Michael Straczynski & Chris Weston* that stars some of Marvel's forgotten second-string Golden Age heroes, has sold out of its initial printing and is going back to press for a second edition. The new printing will feature a *Chris Weston* cover taken from interior art. "This series is an absolute labor of love for JMS and Chris Weston," Executive Editor *Tom Brevoort* said. "They're making this series something special and we're excited to see fans responding to the story—and it only gets bigger from here, folks!" The second printing should be in stores next week.

•Because no one demanded it!... Ambush Bug is returning to the DC Universe—and the character's creator, *Keith Giffen,* will supply both plots and pencil art for the six-issue ***Ambush Bug*** miniseries when it debuts in July. *Robert Loren Fleming* is also returning to supply dialogue for the miniseries, which will poke fun at almost two decades of comic book storylines, clichés, and gimmicks that have come into favor since Ambush Bug last wreaked havoc on the comics medium. Outspoken Bug fan and DC editor *Jann Jones* will oversee the project.

If you enjoy reading CSN , thank your retailer. They pay for the copies they give you each week!

Top Comics for N

ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #11

Geoff Johns & Richard Donner (W); Adam Kubert (A)

(DC DEC070213 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

At last, the fascinating "Last Son" story arc comes to an end in this extra-length finale.

Why Should You Care?

Sure, it's *very* late—but *Geoff Johns, Richard Donner, & Adam Kubert* are worth it!

ADVENTURES OF LITTLE ARCHIE TP VOL 2

Bob Bolling & Others (W/A)

(Archie JAN083367 $9.95)

What's the Scoop?

Ninety-six more pages of delightful Little Archie adventure tales by *Bob Bolling* make this a delight—but when twenty-two of those pages feature an all-new Bolling tale, that makes it an event!

Why Should You Care?

What *Carl Barks* is to Duck stories, *Bob Bolling* is to Archie tales—and that's a great reason to rediscover hte joys of all-ages adventures!

ARMY OF DARKNESS XENA: WHY NOT? #1 (OF 4)

John Layman (W); Miguel Montenegro (A)

(Dynamite JAN083507 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Ash ventures into Xena's realm, where he soon comes face to face with Autolycus—who bears more than a passing resemblance to our intrepid hero—as his ongoing war against the Necronomicon continues.

Why Should You Care?

Two of *Sam Raimi's* most memorable creations cross paths—and both of them involve *Bruce Campbell*!

BUCKAROO BANZAI: THE PREQUEL #1 (OF 2)

Earl Mac Rauch & W.D. Richter (W); Chewie (A)

(Moonstone JAN083794 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Find out how Buckaroo Banzai's life led him to the events of the film in this prequel tale that reveals the origins of his musical career, the final fate of the Illinois Mongoose, and much more.

Why Should You Care?

This isn't just *any* prequel story—no, it's a prequel story produced by ***Buckaroo Banzai*** screenwriter *Earl Mac Rauch* and director *W.D. Richter*, so that pretty much makes it Buckaroo canon!

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER #12

Drew Goddard (W); Georges Jeanty (A)

(Dark Horse JAN080084 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Something very big happens in the kickoff installment of the four-part "Wolves at the Gate" story arc. What it is, we don't know... but Dark Horse promises that it'll be *big*, and we're not going to doubt them.

Why Should You Care?

Cloverfield writer *Drew Goddard* joins artist *Georges Jeanty* for this new arc—and did we mention that he has something *big* in store for ***Buffy*** fans?

CABLE #1

Dwayne Swierczynski (W); Ariel Olivetti (A)

(Marvel JAN082183 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Spinning out of the whole "Messiah Complex" saga comes this all-new, all-serious series starring the time-travelling mutant from the future.

Why Should You Care?

When Cable breaks out of his ***Cable/Deadpool*** niche and moves to the mainstream of Marvel mutantdom, the result is just what X-fans have been waiting for!

DARK IVORY #1 (OF 4)

Joseph Michael Linsner & Eva Hopkins (W); Joseph Michael Linsner (A)

(Image JAN082043 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A goth girl who'd love to be a vampire crosses paths with the real thing... and she learns that having your dreams come true may not be a good thing...

Why Should You Care?

Any new *Joseph Michael Linsner* comic is big news for his many fans—but a new Esque tale is sure to appeal not only to his legions of fans, but also to readers of ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter*** and other vampiric evergreen series.

DARK TOWER: LONG ROAD HOME #1 (OF 5)

Peter David & Robin Furth (W); Jae Lee & Richard Isanove (A)

(Marvel JAN082113 $3.99; also available in a signed edition (JAN083589 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

Roland Deschain's epic adventure continues in the second ***Dark Tower*** miniseries, expanding on *Stephen King's* fantasy saga.

Why Should You Care?

The whole creative team—*Robin Furth, Peter David, Jae Lee, & Richard Isanove*—return for a series that picks up where the first series left off, with those responsible for the death of Susan Delgado hot on the heels of Roland and his men. And that means that everyone who made this series one of the biggest hits in recent years is going to want to see where the story goes next!

DARK WRAITH OF SHANNARA GN

Terry Brooks & Robert Napton (W); Edwin David (A)

(Del Rey JAN083529 $13.95)

What's the Scoop?

The Tolkienesque Shannara epic continues in this original graphic novel that picks up where the final book, ***Wishsong of Shannara***, left off.

Why Should You Care?

Shannara creator *Terry Brooks* contributes the plot for this original graphic novel, which should assure fans of the best-selling series that this tale dovetails perfectly with the other books in Brooks' series.

March

DC SPECIAL: RAVEN #1 (OF 5)

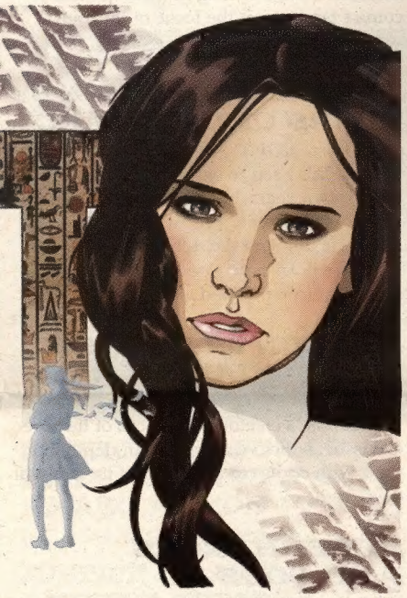
Marv Wolfman (W); Damion Scott (A)
(DC JAN080153 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Raven must endure the angst-driven environment of a contemporary high school as part of her new life... and she arrives just in time to get caught up in a murder mystery that involves Psycho Pirate's Medusa Mask!

Why Should You Care?

Raven co-creator *Marv Wolfman* returns to one of his most famous characters with this five-part miniseries that's sure the appeal to long-time ***Teen Titans*** fans.



GHOST WHISPERER #1

Carrie Smith & Becca Smith (W); Elena Casagrande (A)
(IDW JAN083697 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Melinda's faced a lot of ghosts during her career—but she's never faced off with a god of the dead until now! It seems that Osiris wants the souls for himself... but is Osiris all that he seems to be?

Why Should You Care?

Jennifer Love Hewitt's hit CBS television series comes to comics in this miniseries—and you can be sure it'll capture the feel of the show, since it's co-written by ***Ghost Whisperer*** writer *Becca Smith.*

GRAVEL #1

Warren Ellis (W); Mike Wolfer (A)
(Avatar JAN083391 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Combat magician William Gravel, the star of ***Strange Kiss*** and ***Strange Killings,*** graduates to his own full-color monthly ongoing series—and his first adventure finds him involved with secret societies, an ancient supernatural text of unparalleled power, and an unnatural creature from another dimension.

Why Should You Care?

Warren Ellis continues to put Avatar on the map with this new ongoing series that goes beyond ***Hellblazer.***

GREEN LANTERN #29

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis (A)
(DC JAN080185 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Think you know the origin of Hal Jordan, Green Lantern? Turns out there's a lot more to the story that you've never heard about... until now.

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns continues to expand the complex Green Lantern mythos with this story that explores Hal Jordan's earliest days as a Green Lantern, while focusing on his connections to another Lantern—the greatest of all time—who finds himself caught up in the mystery of Abin Sur's death.

JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE NEW FRONTIER SPECIAL

Darwyn Cooke (W); Darwyn Cooke, J. Bone, David Bullock (A)
(DC JAN080154 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Scheduled to celebrate the release of the the ***New Frontier*** animated film, this 48-page special features never-before-seen stories set in the distinctive *New Frontier* universe.

Why Should You Care?

New Frontier creator *Darwyn Cooke* not only writes every story in this book, but he also illustrates "New Frontier: The Lost chapter, which provides a first-hand look at Faraday's quest to outlaw masked Vigilantes, culminating with the day Superman goes to Gotham to bring down Batman.

LAST DEFENDERS #1 (OF 6)

Joe Casey (W); Jim Muniz (A)
(Marvel JAN082155 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Defenders are back... but they may not be the Defenders you were anticipating...

Why Should You Care?

Joe Casey assembles a new team of Defenders—Colossus, She-Hulk, Blazing Skull, and Nighthawk—to take on the threat of the Sons of the Serpent. No, it's not the usual Defenders—but with Casey on board, you know it's still going to be a great read!

LOGAN #1 (OF 3)

Brian K. Vaughan (W); Eduardo Risso (A)
(Marvel JAN082192 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Armed with long-lost memories from his past, Wolverine returns to one of his first battlefields to settle an old score—and along the way, he'll reveal a thing or two about his earlier years.

Why Should You Care?

Fresh off his acclaimed ***Y—The Last Man,*** writer *Brian K. Vaughan* proves that he's pretty much the best he is at what *he* does, too!

SERENITY: BETTER DAYS #1 (Of 3)

Joss Whedon & Brett Matthews (W); Will Conrad (A)
(Dark Horse JAN080041 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Mal and his crew embark on a heist that promises a big payoff... nothing new there. However, what *is* new is the fact that this heist might actually deliver on the promise!

Why Should You Care?

The entire creative team of the best-selling ***Serenity: Those Left Behind*** miniseries—*Joss Whedon, Brett Matthews, & Will Conrad*—reunite for a second prequel to the fan-favorite film. And considering Whedon's current track record with comics, this one's going to sell out pretty quickly, so grab it while the grabbing is good!

STAR TREK: NEW FRONTIER #1

Peter David (W); Stephen Thompson (A)
(IDW JAN083676 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A prototype time ship has vanished,a nd it appears that the man who stole it is none other than Starfleet Admiral Edward Jellico. Now it's up to Mackenzie Calhoun and the crew of the ***Excalibur*** to stop him before the ship is used to disrupt the space-time continuum.

Why Should You Care?

New Frontier creator *Peter David,* the mastermind behind the first ***Star Trek*** crew created exclusively for print, lends his storytelling talents to the first original ***New Frontier*** comic book series.

TANGENT: SUPERMAN'S REIGN #1 (OF 12)

Dan Jurgens (W); Matt Clark, Fernando Pasarin, & Jesse Delperdang (A)
(DC JAN080148 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Tangent Earth and the DC Earth are about to collide... and the results will bring changes to both worlds!

Why Should You Care?
Readers got their first new glimpse of the Tangent Universe in years in the pages of ***Justice League #16***—but the real action will be found in this twelve-part series that captures the excitement and unpredictability of those bygone JLA-JSA crossovers from the early days of the Silver Age.

TERRY MOORE'S ECHO #1

Terry Moore (W/A)
(Abstract JAN083295 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?
A photographer's life is turned upside down when an explosion in the desert leaves her covered with bizarre metallic fallout that turns out to be a symbiotic technology... and as a result, she is transformed into a living bomb!

Why Should You Care?
Terry Moore, creator of ***Strangers in Paradise*** (arguably the most superlative long-form independent-comics series ever), returns with a very different sort of story—but so long as Moore is involved, it's sure to be a must-read.

YOUNG LIARS #1

David Lapham (W/A)
(Vertigo/DC JAN080243 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
The twisted relationship between a habitual liar and the poor little rich girl who is obsessed with him is the focus of this twisted mystery series.

Why Should You Care?
Stray Bullets creator *David Lapham* launches his first full-color monthly series—and its misfit stars would be right at home in the pages of Lapham's flagship series.

COMIC BOOK COMICS #1
TOON FEUD!
AMAZING Spicy SCIENCE MYSTERY
NEW ACTION FUN
THE HISTORY OF COMIC BOOKS FROM THE CREATORS OF ACTION PHILOSOPHERS!

Check 'Em Out:
Books You Should Be Reading

COMIC BOOK COMICS #1

(Evil Twin JAN083612 $3.95)
Fred Van Lente & Ryan Dunlavey, the men behind ***Action Philosophers***, take an entertaining and irreverent look at the men behind the comics industry.

DYNAMO 5 ANNUAL #1

(Image JAN082048 $5.99)
The first ***Dynamo 5 Annual*** features a collection of pivotal 'untold tales' from Dynamo 5's past.

EMPOWERED TP VOL 3

(Dark Horse NOV070054 $14.95)
Adam Warren's superheroine misadventure series continues in its typically sexy, whimsical, and irreverent fashion.

FX #1 (OF 6)

(IDW JAN083699 $3.99)
Want a top-notch artist to illustrate your first comic book series? Then commission one of the best! That's what writer *Wayne Osborne* did—and the result is this original superhero series illustrated by *John Byrne*.

GODFATHER CHRONICLES #1

(Boom JAN083450 $3.99)
Mark Waid & Greg Scott present all-new tales of the Corleone family in the first licensed comic book spinning out of the classic film trilogy.

POGROM #1 (OF 7)

(Desperado JAN083541 $5.50)
A dead torturer is reborn as a specter hell-bent upon reclaiming his lost human senses in this series by *Matthew Tomao & Josh Medors*.

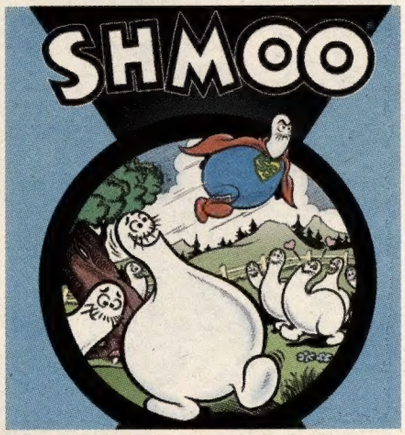
WAR IS HELL: FIRST FLIGHT PHANTOM EAGLE #1 (OF 5)

(Marvel MAX JAN082195 $3.99)
Presenting the first new WWI Phantom Eagle tale in decades, courtesy of *Garth Ennis & Howard Chaykin*—and since it's appearing under the MAX imprint, you can be sure that this war will be hell indeed!

Collected Cool:
March's Best Reprint Volumes

AL CAPP'S COMPLETE SHMOO COMIC BOOKS HC

(Dark Horse NOV070050 $49.95)
Collects all the Golden Age Shmoo comics, featuring the Li'l Abner spinoff characters.



BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE SPECIAL ED HC

(DC NOV070226 $17.99)
All-new edition of the *Alan Moore-Brian Bolland* classic features all-new coloring by Bolland, and includes the Moore-Bolland black and white story "An Innocent Guy."

COMPLETE PEANUTS HC VOL 9 1967-1968

(Fantagraphics JAN083613 $28.99)
Collecting some of Shulz's most popular Peanuts strips from the peak of the series' popularity, just after television made ***Peanuts*** a cultural phenomenon.

COMPLETE TERRY AND THE PIRATES HC VOL 3 1939-1940

(IDW JAN083719 $49.99)
Contains more than 100 lovingly-restored color Sunday pages and over 700 total comic strips by *Milton Caniff*, globe-spanning adventure doesn't get much better than this!

JACK KIRBY'S FOURTH WORLD OMNIBUS HC VOL 4

(DC NOV070239 $49.99)
The final installments of Kirby's Fourth World series are included, along with the restored ***Hunger Dogs*** graphic novel and other bonus features.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS ATLAS ERA HC VOL 2: TALES ASTONISH

(Marvel JAN082202 $54.99)
Collecting the pre-hero ***Tales to Astonish #s 11-20***, including superlative work by Ditko, Kirby, Heck, and others.

FYI:
Great Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #76

(TwoMorrows JAN084019 $6.95)
Joe Simon, one of the few surviving comic book legends who's been involved with the medium almost as long as there has *been* a comics medium, is the focus of this must-read issue.

DARK HORSE: TWENTY YEARS OF COMICS HC

(Dark Horse NOV070046 $24.95)
Okay, it's been twenty-one going on twenty-two years, but a late history of Dark Horse's first twenty years is better than no history at all! Since Dark Horse is the publisher, you can expect oodles of behind-the-scenes information and art.

MODERN MASTERS SC VOL 16: MIKE ALLRED

(TwoMorrows JAN083937 $14.95)
Madman's creator is the focus of this special issue, which combines an in-depth interview with oodles of art, much of its rarely (if ever) seen.

SUPERHEROES AND GODS SC

(McFarland DEC074139 $29.99)
From Gilgamesh and Enkidu to Superman and Captain Marvel, this book provides a unique study of superheroes and gods in literature, popular culture, and ancient myth.

TITANS COMPANION SC VOL 2

(TwoMorrows JAN083938 $26.95)
Picking up where the first volume left off, ***Titans Companion Volume Two*** features interviews with *Geoff Johns, Peter David, Phil Jimenez, Marv Wolfman, George Pérez*, and many others.

Hot Commodities:
February's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN BLACK AND WHITE STATUE: FRANK MILLER

(DC Direct AUG070340 $65.00)
Alterton Bizarre sculpts this rugged, square-jawed Batman monochrome mini-statue, based on the art of *Frank Miller*.

IRON MAN CLASSIC HELMET GOLD 1/1 PROP REPLICA

(Windlass JAN084542 $399.00)

IRON MAN CLASSIC HELMET SILVER 1/1 PROP REPLICA

(Windlass JAN084541 $349.00)

This isn't just a prop—it's actually a wearable full-sized Iron Man helmet, handcrafted in steel and plated in nickel (for the silver version, which is based on the classic first appearance of Iron Man from ***Tales of Suspense #39***), or plated in brass (for the gold version, which replicates Iron Man's helmet from ***Tales of Suspense #40***). Both versions come with a black padded lining for comfort, as well as a full-sized metal display stand with matching support rods and a display plaque. There's only 1463 of the silver and 500 of the gold (add 'em up and you get 1963: the year Iron Man appeared... get it?), so act fast!

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA SERIES 2 AMAZO ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct AUG070347 $19.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA SERIES 2 BATMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct AUG070346 $19.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA SERIES 2 HAWKGIRL ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct AUG070345 $19.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA SERIES 2 DR. IMPOSSIBLE ACTION FIGURE

(Not available as a separate order item; only available in case units)

Ed Benes' art is the inspiration for the second series of JLA action figures.

SILVER SURFER ACTION STATUE

(Bowen JAN084535 $175.00)

SILVER SURFER GALACTUS SCALE STATUE

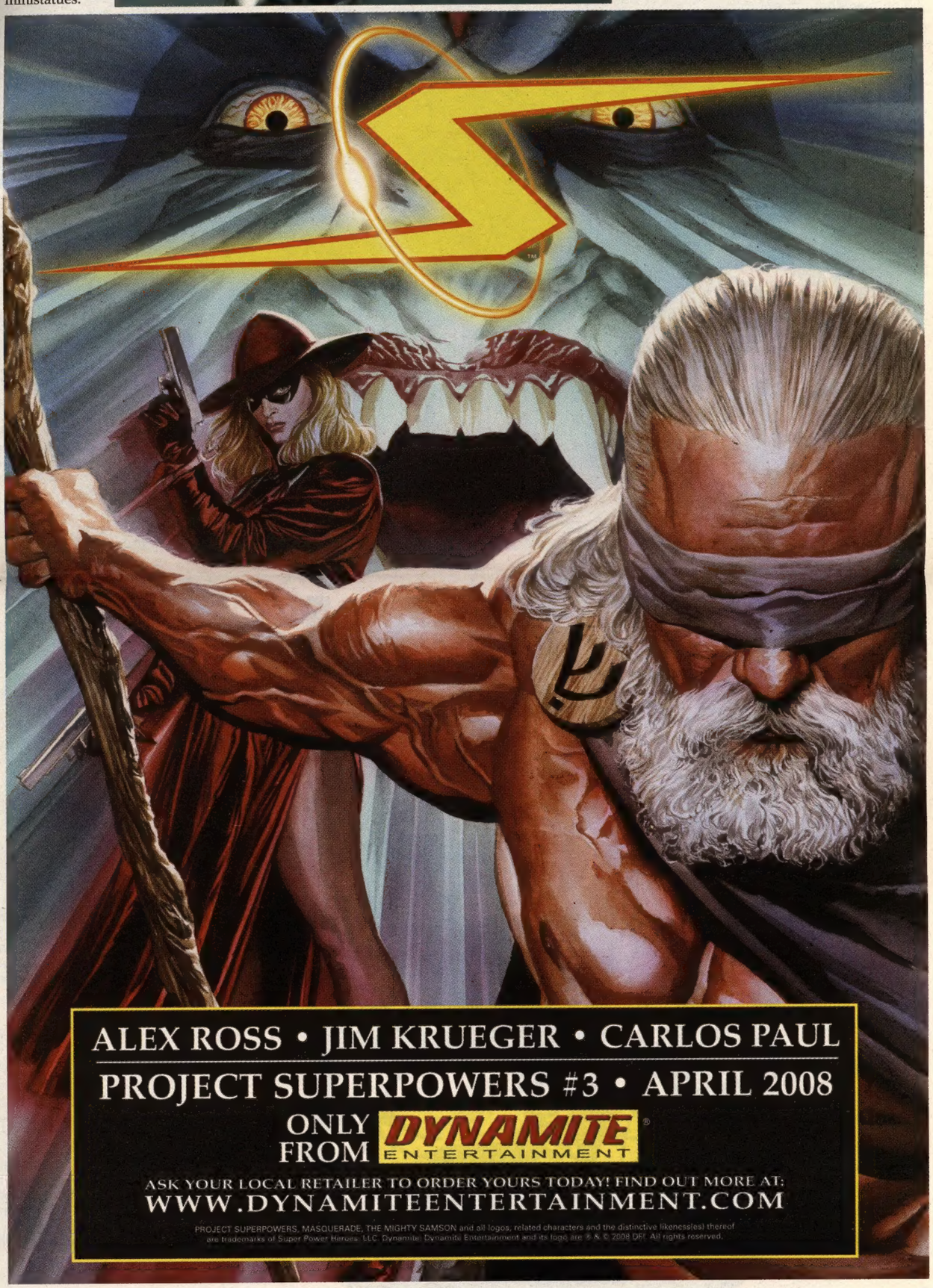
(Bowen JAN084536 $75.00)

Randy Bowen presents an archetypal image of the Silver Surfer—and you can have it in standard statue size or in the mini-statue format that makes it a perfect complement to the now-sold-out Galactus statue and the Fantastic Four ministatues.

WOMEN OF THE DC UNIVERSE SERIES 2: STARFIRE BUST

(DC Direct AUG070361 $49.99)

Jack Mathews does the sculpting honor on the second in a series of minibusts based on the stylish art of *Terry Dodson*.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NIGHT OWLS

A new webcomic series by
BOBBY & PETER TIMONY
Read it for free @ ***zudacomics.com***

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